



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Total holdings of frozen fish and shellfish reached an all-time peak of 138 million pounds on November 1, and inventories since the first of the month have continued the upward trend in most important centers of production and marketing, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported today.

The largest quantity of fish ever held in storage previously was 132 million pounds, reported on October 1, 1944. Present holdings represent an increase of about 10.5 million pounds over October 1, 1945, and are 27 million pounds above the 5-year average for this time of year.

Although holdings normally level off or decline rather sharply after November 1, current reports reaching the Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that increased quantities of fish have been going into storage during November in New York, Chicago, Gloucester, on the New Jersey coast, and in the Gulf of Mexico area.

One of the most striking features of the reports is the rise in the quantity of shrimp placed in storage. Holdings of frozen shrimp, which totaled four million pounds on September 1, rose to 8.4 million pounds on October 1 and to the unprecedented figure of 13.3 million pounds on November 1. The increase in holdings of frozen shrimp is not confined to the Gulf area, but is general throughout the country, the Service reported.

Compared with November 1, 1944, when holdings totaled 131 million pounds, the principal increase occurred in inventories of saltwater fish and shellfish. Saltwater species rose from 109 to 113 million pounds; shellfish from 11 to 19 million. Holdings of fresh water fish, on the other hand, are lower than a year ago, declining from 10 to 7 million pounds.